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Proceedings of the Club

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 25, 1899

Vice-President T. F. Allen in the chair; 38 persons present.

One resignation was offered, that of Mr. Edward B. Miller, now permanently removed to Woodland, Ulster Co. On motion of Dr. Britton this resignation was accepted and the name transferred to the list of corresponding members.

The scientific program opened with a paper by Dr. D. T. MacDougal on "The Mycorrhiza of *Cephalanthera*," describing the general characters of this Pacific coast plant, with special reference to its symbiotism, and exhibition of specimens in alcohol. Dr. MacDougal's specimens form probably the most complete examples of its root system ever procured, the plant growing among matted hemlock roots and very difficult to get at. Discussion by Dr. Britton of the taxonomic relations of *Cephalanthera* followed.

The second subject of the evening was "Notes on Ferns," presented by Mrs. Britton, with specimens and lantern views. Among other interesting plants exhibited were some very large examples of *Botrychium lanceolatum*, from the foot of Mt. Rainier, about a foot high, including roots, and with the lamina nearly three inches in length.

Mr. W. N. Clute spoke of finding *Dryopteris Goldieana* at Bedford Park, and of continued discoveries of *Dryopteris simulata*, usually in company with *Woodwardia areolata*.

Mrs. Britton spoke of the association of *Dryopteris simulata* on the Pocono with *Rhododendron maximum*, in very different surroundings, and called attention to its distinctly blue-green coloring.

Mr. Clute reported a new station for *Schizaea pusilla* at Allen's Bridge, N. J., on the east branch of the Wading River, in quantity, observed last July. The sporophylls of last year were then still remaining on the plant. Sterile leaves were coiling about neighboring stems as if with a trace of the climbing habit of its relative *Lygodium*. This coiling tendency has occasioned the name of curly-grass, which was found in use in New Jersey for *Schizaea*.

The Secretary referred to the successful transplanting of *Schizaea* into a locality near Lakewood, N. J., by Miss R. W. Farrington.

The Secretary made some remarks upon singularities in the distribution of *Aster Schreberi*, a species described by Nees in 1818 from a single plant, and afterward omitted by botanists, until the publication of the Illustrated Flora. The abundance of this species, which he finds characteristic of the Schoharie drainage-basin of the Catskills, contrasts strangely with its absence from other parts of that region.

Judge Brown reported finding *Solidago odora* on high ground near Sam's Point late in the season, many scattered plants appearing in flower at about 2000 ft. altitude.

Dr. Britton remarked that this forms an interesting addition to the number of coast plants found in the Shawangunk range. It has been claimed that the breaking up of sandstone rocks there has produced a sandy soil sufficiently similar to that of the sea-shore to permit the growth of certain arenophilous plants usually found only on the coast.

Mr. R. S. Williams, of Montana, recently returned from the Klondike, spoke of the forests there, of the use of the paper birch for fuel, and of the numerous shrubs, a small *Amelanchier*, etc. Strawberry blossoms were abundant. A yellow-berried raspberry occurs, from which the Indians prepare a drink. Mosses were abundant, covering swamps, becoming dry in the latter part of the season, and ready to burn. The more moist parts of the land never thaw more than 15 inches below the surface. One party put down a shaft 130 feet through frozen gravel, and then reached unfrozen gravel, through which the shaft was continued 60 feet further.

Dr. T. F. Allen spoke of a specimen of *Rhus vernicifera*, the lacquer tree of Japan, which is growing luxuriantly on his lawn in Connecticut. It resembles our swamp sumach, *Rhus venenata*, in appearance, and is becoming a handsome tree. Some of his family who are sensitive to *Rhus* poisoning, find it necessary to avoid going near it.

Discussion followed regarding localities for *Rhus typhina* near New York. Dr. Britton mentioned its occurrence in several lo-

calities on the Palisades and in the mountains in New Jersey. Miss Ingersoll mentioned Ulster county, Mrs. Britton, High Bridge within the city, and the Secretary stated that he had recently observed it at Alpine, N. J., in considerable quantity. Dr. Britton alluded to its desirable qualities as an ornamental tree, improving greatly in cultivation, as may be seen at the Botanical Garden.

Dr. Britton also reported a gift to the Botanical Garden of about 200 volumes which had belonged to the botanist, David Hosack. They are in excellent condition and some of them extremely rare.

Adjournment followed.

TUESDAY EVENING, NOV. 14, 1899

Dr. Rusby in the chair; 29 persons present.

Two new members were elected: Miss Carrie Huse, 223 West 23d Street, Mrs. Wm. E. Damon, of the same address, both proposed by Miss Murray.

The scientific program consisted of a paper by Mrs. C. L. Pollard on "Types of Vegetation on the Florida Keys," illustrated by the lantern. Mr. Pollard described the successive steps in the formation of those islands, and distinguished their belts of mangrove and occasionally of fine littoral flora, with interior zones known as "scrub-hammock" and "tall-hammock," and with pine-barrens, and salt-barrens. He ascribed the flora to a West Indian origin, and remarked also upon the chief fruits and garden plants cultivated, and the weeds of the gardens. Beautiful views were exhibited, showing the *Casuarina*, much planted in Key West, competing there with the cocoanut palm as a shade-tree; *Tillandsias* in the scrub-hammock each holding a quart of water among its leaf-bases, even on the driest day, etc. Among the most interesting views were those showing the development of an island originated by a single mangrove-tree. The mangrove seedlings drop like a plummet through the water into the mud, and may be washed a little way by the tide, but as the tidal force is small, it is very rare that a mangrove seedling dies, and there is little chance of its failing to strike root promptly, except when it happens, rarely, to strike upon a coral rock.

Dr. Rusby alluded to the mangrove roots as an important source for tannin.

Mr. Lighthipe spoke of the fragrance which he finds characterizes *Tillandsia usneoides* at the time of flowering. Around Jacksonville this is now growing scarce in consequence of its extensive collection to manufacture "mohair" for mattresses.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 29, 1899

Fifty-two persons present ; President Brown in the chair.

Attention of the Club was called to the Card Index of Current American Literature, hitherto published by the Cambridge Botanical Supply Company, and it was moved and carried that the Card Index be continued under the auspices of the Torrey Club. It is prepared by the editors of the BULLETIN, and it would seem proper that the distribution of the Index be under their control. It is understood that the passage of this motion will not expose the Club to financial responsibility.

Dr. Britton raised the question of continuance of field excursions through the winter, for study of bryophytes, algae, etc.; the reports from the November excursions warranted their continuation, and the Club voted that the Committee be requested to continue the excursions until further action.

Two new members were elected : Miss Louise B. Dunn, assistant, Barnard College ; Mr. David Griffiths, Columbia University. Both proposed by Professor Underwood.

The scientific program consisted of a paper by Dr. C. C. Curtis, on the algae, with lantern views illustrating the leading families, and with a condensed summary of the modes of reproduction and other characteristics of each. Dr. Curtis also gave brief directions respecting methods of collecting and preserving the marine algae, urging the collector to make microscopic study of all forms, and pointing out the great need of further observation to clear up doubtful points in their reproductive processes.

President Brown exhibited specimens found by Dr. Meredith at Danville, Pa., of *Ajuga Genevensis* and of *Hieracium Pilosella*. The first had been observed on ballast in New York City, but not the latter.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.